

Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. No 5403
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHILD TAX CREDIT AGAINST THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX
March 14, 2022

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, and Distinguished Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I am a pediatrician in New Haven, CT.

I am writing in **SUPPORT of H.B. 5403**, An Act Establishing a Child Tax Credit Against the Personal Income Tax.

As a pediatrician working in New Haven I witness firsthand the toxic stress created by financial strain. Roughly one third of New Haven's children live in poverty, and poverty threatens child health. Families with limited financial means often struggle to afford basic necessities, eat nutritious food, stay physically active, and manage chronic conditions. In addition, poverty increases the risk of developing asthma, obesity, and numerous other health conditions.

In addition to my many hours working as a pediatrician, this year I also completed a number of training modules and exams to become a volunteer tax preparer with Tax Haven, which is an IRS-certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. Many of the tax returns I have prepared this year are from the same families I care for in the primary care pediatric clinic in New Haven. For families living in poverty, these credits can be a real game changer. A few weeks ago, one of my clients was so thrilled to hear that her tax return had been accepted- she's a single mom of two young children, and her son's birthday was coming up in a few weeks. For her, that refund meant buying her son birthday presents. For another client I had recently, a single mom of one child, her refund meant saving money towards purchasing her first car. Both families benefitted greatly from the EITC and federal CTC.

There is also a body of research demonstrating that children raised in families receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit do better in school, are more likely to attend college, and can be expected to earn more as adults. These critical economic investments in young families generate lifetime savings in medical care and social support. They help keep children healthy, and healthy children grow up to be healthy and productive members of our communities.

I strongly **support H.B. 5403**, and ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Sincerely,
Kristin Reese, MD